

PLO to open Tokyo office

AMMAN, Dec. 18 (R). — Mr. Fathi Abdul Hamid, former head of the New Delhi office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), arrived here today to open a PLO office at a place yet to be picked, informed sources said. The chief spokesman for foreign affairs of the PLO, Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, said during a visit to Japan last April that the PLO hoped to open an office in Tokyo to maintain contacts at governmental and other levels in Japan and to disseminate information on the Palestinian cause.

JORDAN TIMES

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Jordan hotel gunman hung

AMMAN (JNA). — The only survivor of last month's raid on the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel was hanged here Saturday morning. Mr. Khairi Tawfiq Omeir appeared before a martial court which sentenced him to death on being found guilty of killing and injuring a number of soldiers and civilians. The other three gunmen who took part in the raid were killed during the Nov. 17 drama. Mr. Omeir was taken alive after being wounded in the attack.

Hussein visits UAE, Qatar

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein returned here Saturday evening at the end of a 24-hour visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, where he held talks on the current Middle East situation and on bilateral relations with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Nahyan, and the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani.

His Majesty was accompanied on the two visits by a high-level delegation headed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and including Chief of the Royal Cabinet Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Minister of Court Amer Khamash, the assistant chief-of-staff for manpower and commander of the Royal Air Force.

Premier Al Hoss begins tour in quest of aid

Lebanon needs \$100m. for reconstruction

BEIRUT, Dec. 18 (Agencies). — Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss left here today for Saudi Arabia in quest of cash to help rebuild Lebanon after 19 months of civil war. The official Beirut Radio, announcing his departure, said he would also visit Kuwait. Press reports here have said Dr. Al Hoss seeks initial aid of \$100 million to begin Lebanon's economic recovery.

Assad, Sadat to discuss Mideast peace settlement

CAIRO, Dec. 18 (Agencies). — Mamdouh Salem and Foreign Minister Hafez Assad arrived here today for key talks with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

It is the first bilateral meeting between the two men since they were reconciled during last October's Arab summit in Riyadh and Cairo on the Lebanese crisis. The two leaders will also discuss a unified military strategy as an alternative should peaceful negotiations fail.

President Assad, heading a high-level Syrian delegation, was met at the airport by President Sadat and other senior Egyptian government leaders including Vice President Husni Mubarak, Premier question.

In an interview with Cairo Radio last night President Assad said the Arab world should be represented by a single delegation made up of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Syrian proposal is believed to be aimed at overcoming Israeli and U.S. objections to the PLO's participation in the conference.

The Cairo representative of the PLO today categorically rejected President Assad's proposal.

"Our policy has not changed," PLO representative Gamal Sourani told Reuters. "We are determined that the PLO must be represented by a delegation of its own."

President Assad and Sadat are also expected to discuss the mechanics of setting up an independent Palestine state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile.

Other topics to be discussed by the two leaders include the consolidation of the unified military command of the two countries, as well as an examination of Soviet-Arab relations in the light of a recent meeting in Sofia between the Egyptian and Soviet foreign ministers.

The two heads of state talked informally at a dinner in President Assad's honour tonight, and will start official talks with their subordinates at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.

President Assad was accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and Defence Minister Gen. Naji Jamil.

Losses caused by the fighting between the rightwing and a leftist-Palestinian alliance have been estimated at up to \$4 billion.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait took part, with Syria, Egypt, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the Arab summit at Riyadh last October.

The summit devised the plan which stopped the Lebanese fighting.

Foreign diplomats believe that the two states have already pledged nearly two thirds of \$90 million or so, needed to finance the Arab peace force, which imposed a truce on Nov. 15.

King Khaled of Saudi Arabia has also made available an immediate \$5 million grant to help about 300,000 people made destitute by the war.

The Lebanese news agency Agence Nationale d'Information admitted yesterday that the Arab Truce Supervisory Committee had not yet settled the question of the collection of military equipment.

It said there were still some details to be sorted out, notably the points of collection for the equipment, and the zones that must remain outside the agreement.

These questions, and others, were the subject of talks between Dr. Al Hoss and President Hafez Assad of Syria when the Lebanese premier visited Damascus yesterday.

The agency stressed in an earlier commentary that the opera-

tion to collect the military equipment was decided by the Arab summits in Riyadh and Cairo and that "the Lebanese authorities had no intention of giving in on this precise point."

It said the operation was certain to have the same success as the first phases of the peace plan.

The newspapers Al Anwar (close to the Syrian government) and Al Nahar (independent) reported that the Assad-Al Hoss talks dealt mainly with the collection of military equipment and the difficulties that the truce committee had run up against.

L'Orient-Le Jour, the French-language newspaper, said that the problem of the collection of equipment could not be settled, after three weeks of vain effort by the truce committee, except by a sort of "arbitration judgment" by Presidents Assad and Sadat.

It added that the committee had postponed its "decisive session" until next Wednesday pending the verdict of the two major Arab powers, whose leaders are now meeting in Cairo.

Leaders of the PLO say that if their military equipment is moved it will be difficult to defend the refugee camps if they are the target of surprise attacks.

The resistance would prefer to stock its weapons in the camps

rather than collect them together at determined points.

The Lebanese side and the truce committee emphasise that the possibility of Israeli attacks against Palestinian camps could be ruled out under the present international conditions, with the approach of the Geneva conference.

Regarding the possibility of attacks from within, the Arab deterrent force is in a position to protect the camps.

In any case the Lebanese state has called for Beirut and its surroundings to be cleared as a priority.

Lebanese editor demands official explanations over Beirut press raids

BEIRUT, Dec. 18 (R). — A leading newspaper editor today asked President Elias Sarkis to clarify the official attitude to the press, after raids on four publications by the Arab peace-keeping forces.

"If it is necessary to impose censorship it should be announced and organised," said Mr. Michel Abu Joudeh, editor of the independent daily Al Nahar.

He spoke at a press conference following the seizure yesterday of the offices of the leftist daily Al Safir.

On Wednesday, soldiers occupied the offices of two pro-Iraqi dailies — Al Muharrir and Beirut, in addition to a pro-Iraqi weekly Al Destour.

Mr. Abu Joudeh disclosed today that he had written to President Sarkis asking that a special "higher committee" be formed to deal with press affairs.

The 30,000-man peace force is responsible to Mr. Sarkis in carrying out its mandate from the Arab League to keep the peace in Lebanon.

Mr. Abu Joudeh said that, for the newspapers "the situation is so unclear."

"We at Al Nahar have been visited and called on the telephone and asked many things. The president is responsible for the Arab task force... we are asking him to say something," Mr. Abu Joudeh concluded.

Poll shows Rabin's popularity slipping

LAVIV, Dec. 18 (AFP). — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's popularity is slipping while that of Professor Yigal Yadin is on the rise, according to a poll conducted by the Social Research Centre, near Jerusalem university.

Mr. Rabin is the leader of the ruling Labour Party and Professor Yadin has just started a new party.

The poll was requested by the daily paper Yediot Aharonot. To the question "Who would you like to see head the next government?", answers were:

Mr. Rabin: 28 per cent (against 45% in September),
Mr. Menachem Begin (leader of the Likud opposition party): 41 per cent (14% in Sept.),
Professor Yadin: 11 per cent (3.5% in Sept.),
Defence Minister Shimon Peres: 9 per cent (9.5% in Sept.),
Gen. Ariel Sharon (who has just seceded from the Likud party from his own): 6 per cent. (Gen. Sharon had not been mentioned in September).

Appoints Idaho governor interior minister

Carter denies Mideast peace for oil price bargain

ATLANTA, Georgia, Dec. 18 (AFP). President-elect Jimmy Carter denied any link between the raising of Saudi Arabia's oil price and a possible new effort in the Middle East by the United States.

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"I don't believe the oil price will be a factor in the political process in the Middle East," he said during a press conference to announce his designation of Cecil Andrus as Secretary of the Interior.

Carter's designated Secretary of State Cyrus Vance talked to the Saudi ambassador last before the price increases by

petroleum exporting countries. But "there was no quid pro quo discussed," Mr. Carter told newsmen.

"There is no connection between their oil price and the political decision in the Middle East."

Saudi Arabia increased the price of its crude oil only five per cent while most of the other oil countries raised theirs ten per cent and scheduled a further five per cent rise next year.

Mr. Carter confirmed that he intends to merge the various federal agencies dealing with energy. He said he was thinking of having former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger run this energy department. The two men will confer here this afternoon.

The designated interior minister, Governor of Idaho Mr. Andrus will be in charge of natural resources, national parks and Indian reservations. The U.S. interior secretary has nothing to do with police powers.

Mr. Carter previously designated Mr. Michael Blumenthal as Treasury Secretary, and Mr. Brock Adams as Transportation Secretary.

Mr. Carter will try to select seven more cabinet members by Christmas.

Mr. Andrus, 45, is known to millions of Americans as "the Potato Man" because he used to advertise potatoes on television.

He was an officer of the marines in Korea, and has been governor of Idaho since 1970.

Mr. Carter indicated today he was having trouble finding women and blacks for some of the seven still-vacant cabinet posts.

He no longer spoke of them in the plural, an admission that the cabinet might only include one woman and one black.

Now a Washington lawyer, Mr. Sorensen was one of the close friends that Senator Edward Kennedy telephoned to in the night after his secretary drowned in the senator's car following a party.

Before being inaugurated as president on Jan. 20, Mr. Carter plans to hold a preliminary meeting with his full cabinet on Dec. 28 on St. Simon's Island off the Georgia coast, when he is vacationing there.

Mr. Carter also seemed to be hesitating over the choice of defence secretary. A man frequently mentioned as his most likely choice, Mr. Harold Brown, President of the California Institute of Technology, has been objected to by certain liberals.

This opposition resulted from Mr. Brown's attitude toward the Vietnam war and construction of the supersonic B-1 bombing plane when he was air force secretary under President Lyndon Johnson.

Mr. Carter was scheduled to see Mr. Ted Sorensen here today — the adviser of President John Kennedy. Newspapers have reported that Mr. Sorensen was being considered as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Palestinians must join Geneva conference, says Kuwaiti F.M.

BEIRUT, Dec. 18 (R). — Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said in a newspaper interview published in Beirut today that the Palestinians must participate in the renewed Geneva Middle East peace conference.

"We are not opposed to the holding of the conference, but we do say that the Palestinians must be represented in any such conference, for the whole question is their question," he said in the daily Al Beirag.

Asked about the United States President-elect Jimmy Carter, Sheikh Sabah said he hoped that once in office, Mr. Carter would understand the importance of American interests in the Arab Middle East.

"The way for the United States to safeguard its interests is to help in bringing about a just and lasting peace in the region," he added.

OPEC may reduce oil production if Saudi Arabia floods market

DOHA, Dec. 18, (R). — Libyan Oil Minister Ezzedin Al Mabruk today denied reports that the 11 OPEC states which yesterday decided on a 10 per cent price increase had also agreed to cut back oil production in proportion to any likely increase in Saudi Arabian output.

See related story on page 3

But he told Reuters they could take such action if Saudi Arabia was to flood the market with its oil.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) decided at the OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) conference which ended here yesterday to opt only for an increase of five



Libyan Oil Minister Ezzedin Al Mabruk.

per cent for the whole of 1977. Venezuelan Oil Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta told Reuters in a telephone interview from Abu Dhabi that the group of 11 had not decided on any cutbacks.

Mr. Al Mabruk, the only oil minister still here, said he was certain Saudi Arabia and the UAE would not increase production to meet the expected scramble for their bargain oil. "I am convinced it will not happen," he said.

Mr. Al Mabruk said he was more confident about the future of OPEC and thought decisions taken at the three-day conference here were "a sign of strength rather than weakness."

But he accused Saudi Arabia of trying to impose its will on OPEC simply because it produced a large quantity of oil. He said Saudi Arabia and the UAE produced one-third of OPEC's total output, but the world also needed the oil pro-

duced by the other 11 OPEC states.

Mr. Al Mabruk said any decision to reduce production by the 11 OPEC members in the face of a flood of cheap Saudi oil would likely be in simple terms of a general percentage and not according to any of the formulae under discussion by OPEC for production programming.

These would allocate production according to each country's population and financial needs in order to balance supply and demand for oil in world markets.

Mr. Al Mabruk said the Saudi reasons for wanting a lower price increase were "not sound" and described the Saudi position as a "grave mistake."

The Libyan minister said the 11 states which opted for a higher increase did so because they needed to protect the purchasing power of their oil revenues and maintain their level of development.

Mr. Al Mabruk, said the real price of imported goods had risen by five to six per cent in the last two or three months alone. The oil price increase should have been 26 per cent, he added.

"We are still poor underdeveloped nations. We still owe money to the industrialised states," to say that a small increase would "greatly hurt" world economy is a laughable matter. "These are all manoeuvres, part of an attempt to deprive us of our rights and to divide us," he said.

Mr. Al Mabruk said the only oil weapon was an oil embargo and that had been used before ineffectively. "We have lost the chance to use of as a weapon," he said.

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Carter "government" to meet this month

PLAINS, Georgia, Dec. 18 (AFP). — President-elect Jimmy Carter will hold the first meeting of his "government" on Dec. 27, 28 and 29 on St. Simons Island, off Georgia's Atlantic Coast, where he will spend a few days between Christmas and New Year.

Jody Powell, Mr. Carter's spokesman, said the meeting would allow cabinet members to get to know each other and to prepare for the decisions that would follow the inauguration of Mr. Carter on Jan. 20.

So far, Mr. Carter has appointed only three members of his cabinet: the secretaries of state, of the treasury and of transportation, leaving eight more posts to fill.

Mr. Powell said the president-elect hoped to complete the lineup by Christmas, but he could not guarantee it.

Some of the posts were clearly presenting unexpected problems.

Mr. Carter yesterday had talks here with Mr. Lane Kirkland, Secretary and Treasurer of the huge U.S. trade union confederation the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO), who passed on his organisation's objections to the possible choice of Harold Brown, President of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), as defence secretary.

At the same time, Mr. Kirkland reiterated the AFL-CIO's desire that John Dunlop be reappointed secretary of labour, the post he held under President Ford until February this year.

Mr. Carter also met Mrs. Juanita Krepes, Vice President of Duke University in North Carolina, to whom he offered the post of secretary of commerce, turned down by Mrs. Jane Cahill Pfeiffer who declined to accept any government position for personal reasons.

Mr. Carter wants his cabinet to include at least one woman and one black -- in addition to United Nations representative Andrew Young, whose post merely has cabinet rank -- in order to fulfill the promises he made during the election campaign.

Some black organisations have put pressure on the president-elect to choose a black as attorney general in order to ensure that the laws concerning racial equality were respected.

Mr. Carter could kill two birds with one stone by appointing a black woman, such as Barbara Jordan, the Democratic Congresswoman from Texas, to the post.

The name of former ambassador to Luxembourg Patricia Harris has also been mentioned.

CHINA PLANS OIL CONFERENCE

HONG KONG, Dec. 18 (AFP). — China's oil industry is to be discussed at a national conference for which the groundwork is now being laid in Peking, New China News Agency disclosed today. Preparations are also underway for national conferences on industry as a whole and on chemical enterprises.

This information was given by the news agency in a report which said that yesterday Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and other top Chinese officials had received more than 1,800 representatives who are in Peking for the "preparatory meeting" of the three conferences. These conferences will be based on the concept of "learn from Taching" -- China's leading oil producers. Among the representatives are veteran drillers from Taching and other Chinese oil fields.

The news agency said that Mr. Hua and other Chinese leaders received the delegates in Peking's Great Hall of the People, which was "permeated with a warm revolutionary atmosphere."

Marcos rejects federal solution for Filipino Moslem separatists' demands

MANILA, Dec. 18 (AFP). — President Ferdinand Marcos today rejected a federal solution to the Filipino Moslem problem in Mindanao, Southern Philippines.

Addressing a nationally televised session of the national Legislative Advisory Council, Mr. Marcos reiterated he would not allow any part of the Philippines to be taken away to form a separate Moslem state, and declared this also meant that "federalisation is out" as an alternative solution.

This was taken by observers here as amounting to a virtual rejection by Mr. Marcos of the demand by Moslem rebels for the establishment of Moslem self-

Saudis will not commit "aggression" with oil

DOHA, Qatar, Dec. 18 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia was unlikely to boost its production of oil beyond limits fixed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Algerian Energy Minister Belaid Abdesslem said here last night.

If Saudi Arabia did so, this would constitute political aggression against OPEC's other member-states in the wake of yesterday's break in unity on pricing, Mr. Abdesslem said.

"We do not think this will happen," he told Agence France Presse. Eleven of OPEC's 13 members decided on a two-stage 15 per cent rise in oil prices, but Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates said they would raise their prices by only five per cent.

Mr. Abdesslem said he thought world markets would be able to absorb the two-tiered price system decided upon by OPEC ministers.

"Everything depends on the state of the market," he declared. If consumption increased around the world, he said he thought it was possible that the difference in prices which will reach 10 per cent on July 1 next year will have been wiped out.

"If the contrary happens, we could envisage reducing our production," Mr. Abdesslem stated.

"The energy problem will become more and more a question of availability of supplies rather than a question of price," the Algerian minister predicted.

Mr. Abdesslem said the oil producers found that a step-by-step increase in oil prices was the simplest solution. "If the developed nations manoeuvre to obtain short-term gains, they are risking a prolongation of the economic recession to the extent that a reduction in consumption can only be obtained at the price of more recession."

The Algerian minister said that other OPEC countries felt that increasing the price of oil prices in future years was preferable to "brutal" price increases in response to a rapid growth in demand for oil as had happened in 1973 at the beginning of the world oil crisis.

Mr. Abdesslem said setbacks to the north-south dialogue in Paris between rich and poor nations had prompted Algeria to seek a series of measures that included a 15 per cent increase in oil prices in 1977.

This rise was "perfectly acceptable to industrialised countries which were able to absorb without difficulty the 10 per cent rise in 1975," he declared.

In addition, Algeria had worked to increase OPEC's Special Fund by \$800 million to aid Third World countries most affected by price rises to get over these increases and to develop their economies, he added.

Algeria was also working towards the creation of a common fund to fund buffer stocks of raw materials and towards the principle of regular increase in oil prices based on world inflation rates until 1981 or 1982, he said.

Price of crude worries Seoul

SEOUL, Dec. 18 (AFP). — South Korea is concerned with OPEC's oil price hike which Seoul believes will render the world economy sluggish, thus adversely affecting the nation's exports next year.

Economic Planning Minister Nam Duckwoon said today South Korea would be able to achieve 10 per cent economic growth in 1977 despite the oil price boost.

The oil price hike, announced at a time when South Korea hopes ambitiously to attain a \$10,000 million export target next year, will push up Korea's oil bills next year by \$130 million to about \$1,860 million, which constitutes 19 per cent of the nation's overall imports.

Saudi Arabia's five per cent price rise was received here with relief as Saudi oil provides about 40 per cent of Korea's total crude oil needs, with Kuwait and Iran accounting for 38 and 12 per cent respectively.

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7:30 News bulletin	15:00 Concert hour
7:40 Morning melodies	16:00 Old favourites
8:00 Sign off	16:30 Easy listening
12:00 Pop session part I	17:00 Comedy series
12:30 Catch the word	17:30 Pop session part IV
12:45 Pop session part II	18:00 News summary
13:00 News summary	18:05 Listener's choice
13:05 Pop session part III	19:00 News bulletin
14:00 News bulletin	19:10 Music
14:15 Radio magazine	19:30 Sign off

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Zarqa :	
Abdul Karim Khashashneh	Taxis :
	Khayam (41541)
Pharmacies :	Firas (23428)
Amman :	Mahd (22038)
Habayeb (44930)	Asfour (23231)
Salam (36730)	

AMMAN AIRPORT

Departures :	Arrivals :	GMT
8:45 Cairo (EA)	8:00 Cairo (EA)	05:00 News; Press Review
9:30 Rome	8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	05:15 New Ideas
10:00 Larnaca, Athens	9:40 Kuwait (KAC)	05:25 Book Choice
10:30 Kuwait (KAC)	11:20 Deir Al Zor, Damascus (SAA)	05:30 Featuring...
12:00 Aqaba (SAA)	11:25 Rawalpindi (BA)	05:45 Letter from America
12:10 Beirut (MEA)	12:15 Aqaba (SAA)	06:00 News; Press Review
12:10 London (BA)	14:10 Riyadh (SDI)	06:30 Sarah Ward Requests
14:45 Damascus (SAA)	16:20 Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain (GA)	07:00 News
16:15 Riyadh (SDI)	17:10 London	07:15 Our own correspondent
17:00 Cairo	17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	07:30 Featuring...
18:55 Baghdad, Dohran	17:45 Paris	07:45 As I See It
19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok	17:55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva	07:55 Book Choice
20:00 Kuwait	18:15 Rome	08:00 News; Reflections
20:30 Tehran	18:20 Athens, Larnaca	08:15 World Radio Club
21:00 Jeddah	23:30 Cairo	08:20 The Pleasure of Yours

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Municipal water service (emergency) ...	" 37111-3
Police headquarters ...	" 39141
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French Cultural Centre ...	" 37009
Goethe Institute ...	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre ...	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library ...	" 36111

BBC RADIO

14:30 Dad's Army	15:00 Radio Newsreel
15:15 Symphony	16:00 News; Commentary
16:15 Our own correspondent	16:40 The Week in Wales
16:45 The Mill on the Floss	17:00 News
17:09 The World Around Us: Reith lecture	17:40 Book Choice
17:45 Sportscall	18:00 News
18:15 Radio Newsreel	18:30 Flavour of the Fifties
19:00 Radio Theatre	19:45 The Face of England
20:00 News; Commentary	20:15 Letterbox
20:30 Sunday Half-Hour	21:00 Theatre Call
21:15 Your Verdict ?	21:45 Wars that changed the World
22:00 News	22:09 Our own correspondent
22:35 Letter from London	22:45 Sportscall
23:00 World News; Commentary	

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	9:15 Wrestling
6:00 Quran	Channel 6
6:05 Cartoons	7:30 News in Hebrew
6:30 Space 1999	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 Love thy neighbour
Channel 3	9:10 Civilisation
7:30 Development programme	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Mannix (on both channels)

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Tutankhamen's treasures glitter in America's showcases

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CSM). — Almost 55 years after the most important archaeological discovery of this century, the tomb of Tutankhamen, 55 of the most opulent treasures from that tomb recently arrived in the United States for a two-and-a-half year tour of major American museums.

"Treasures of Tutankhamen", the much-heralded and long-awaited exhibition, is the result of an agreement signed by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in 1975. It is unquestionably one of, if not the, most prestigious international loan exhibition to visit the U.S.

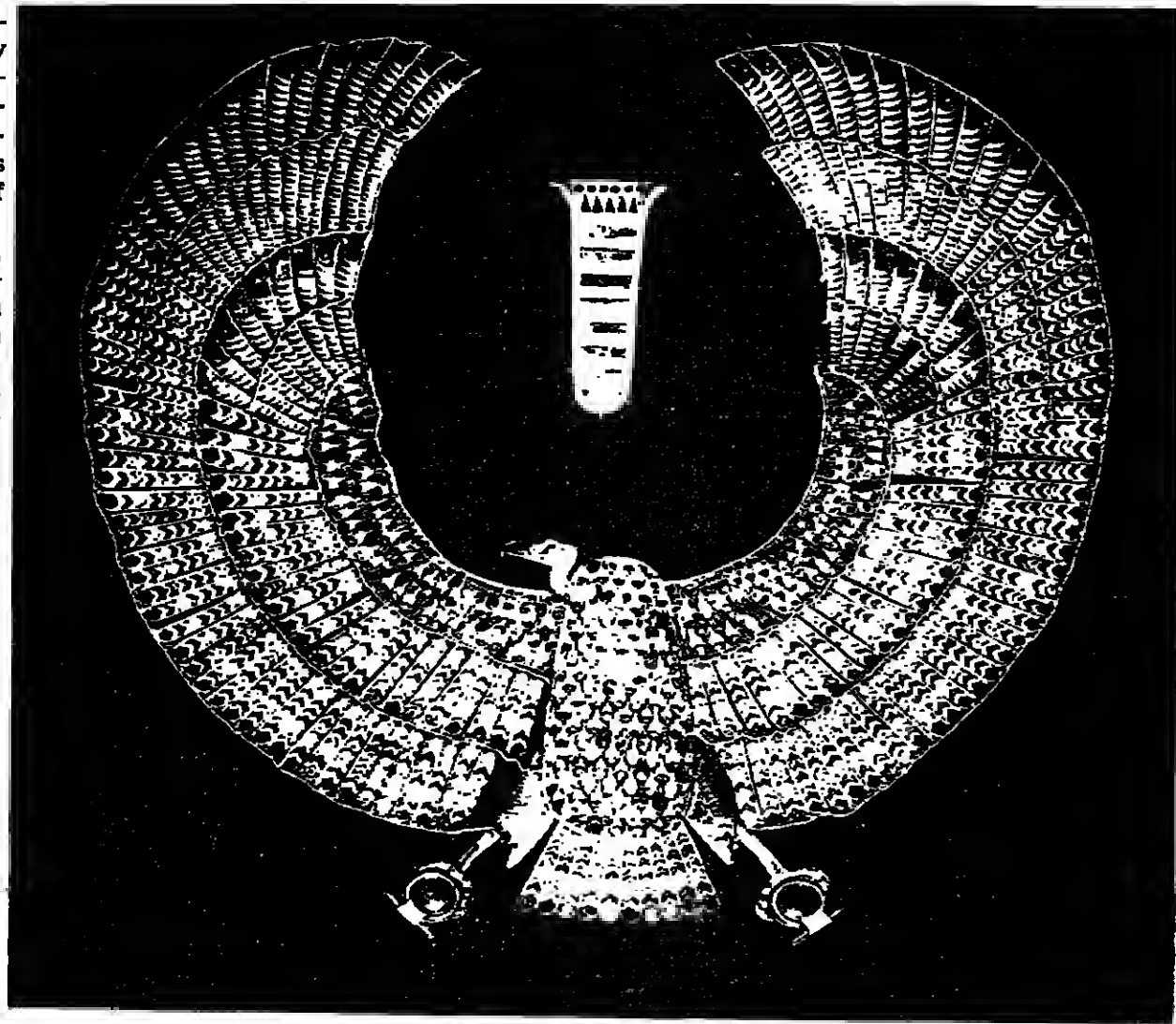
While the Cairo Museum, where the relics from the pharaoh's tomb customarily reside, has previously loaned objects to European museums (and even a "minimum risk" show of small pieces to the United States in 1961), the distinction of this exhibition, according to Gamal Mokhtar, president of the Organisation of Egyptian Antiquities, is that it is the largest, the longest and the best.

No Tutankhamen exhibition has ever travelled so long. And 20 of the pieces, among them the most precious, have never left Egypt before.

Christine Lillyquist, curator of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York who selected the objects in conjunction with Egyptian officials, commented: "They gave me everything I wanted. There were two considerations: I wanted treasures and I wanted to show the variety of style and purpose of the tomb's contents." The obvious omissions, notably Tutankhamen's golden throne, were too dangerous to transport.

The value of the objects is, of course, priceless (despite the recent discovery that many of the "gems" in the king's jewellery are actually made of glass), and the Metropolitan Museum, which arranged the exhibition and managed the consortium, was responsible for obtaining federal insurance under the new Arts and Artifacts Indemnification Act. This spared the participating museums the high cost of the insurance.

The exhibition opened in Washington rather than New York be-



Twenty-cm. golden inlaid collar.

cause international exhibitions requiring covenants between governments generally open in the capitals of the countries involved.

Tutankhamen, more familiarly known as King Tut, was the last pharaoh of royal blood in the 18th dynasty, which produced much of ancient Egypt's most fabulous art.

In 1922 his was the only major pharaoh's tomb still undiscovered, and British archaeologist Howard Carter, obsessed by the conviction that Tutankhamen's tomb lay buried in the Valley of the Kings where about 30 other royal tombs had been found, began that year what promised to be his sixth season of digging.

Before the week was out, Mr. Carter had not only discovered the legendary tomb of Tutankhamen but the only imperial tomb to have eluded the tomb robbers. Although they had penetrated the tomb, its

contents were comparatively untouched except by time.

The tomb consisted of four small chambers filled with 5,000 objects -- "strange animals, statues and gold -- everywhere the glint of gold," according to Mr. Carter's journals.

To violate a tomb was considered a religious crime in Egypt. Written warnings, occasionally interpreted as curses, were found in some tombs, though ironically not in that of Tut, despite the superstition that eventually spread like wildfire.

Speculation about a curse began when the Earl of Carnarvon, who financed Mr. Carter's expeditions, died suddenly in Egypt.

Some people, including the earl's son, elaborated rumours of a curse, and the press picked them up and popularised them. Mr. Carter, himself, who lived to age 66, tried his

best to debunk the curse theory, but without total success.

Little is known of Tutankhamen, the boy who ascended to the throne after the death of Akhenaten, the heretic king who may have been his father, father-in-law or brother.

Akhenaten, whose wife was Nefertiti, was the most iconoclastic of Egyptian pharaohs. He rebelled against the traditional polytheistic religion and established in Egypt for the first time the worship of the sun-god Aten.

An artistic revolution accompanied his religious reforms and introduced an unprecedented naturalism and expressiveness into the extremely stylised earlier art.

Even though Tutankhamen apparently made a partial effort to reinstate the old religion, the art of his brief reign, from about 1334 to 1325 B.C., was a synthesis of the old and new styles.

Examples from the exhibition are the solid gold death mask, which is probably the most famous object in the tomb. The mask is an idealised representation of the King's features. The face is sublime, and yet remarkably real -- so real the lips seem at times to breathe and the eyes to see.

The mask is the last image of Tutankhamen, and it bears a striking resemblance to the first, the painted wooden bust of the king

portrayed as the infant sun-god at the moment of birth. The delicate molding and the elongated skull, characteristic of the Amarna period, miraculously evoke the living presence of the 3,000-year-old king.

The other figures in the exhibition epitomise the stylistic union of the natural and the supernatural. The gold statue of Tutankhamen about to harpoon a hippopotamus is a rare example of action sculpture in Egyptian art, as realistic as it is idealised.

And the goddess Selket, cautiously removed for this exhibition from her sentinel position around the gilded shrine containing the king's mummified organs, is one of the most graceful and serene female figures in the history of sculpture.

Mr. Carter divided the objects in the tomb into two categories: religious and personal. Examples in this exhibition include effigies of deities in human and animal form, such as the glowering gilded cobra, intended to speed the king's passage from this world to the next.

The personal objects encompass not only the elaborately carved and bejewelled vessels containing the pharaoh's organs but everything he would need in the next life -- furniture, writing utensils, musical instruments, weapons, games, jewellery and even decorative objects such as the ethereally translucent, intricately carved alabaster vases.

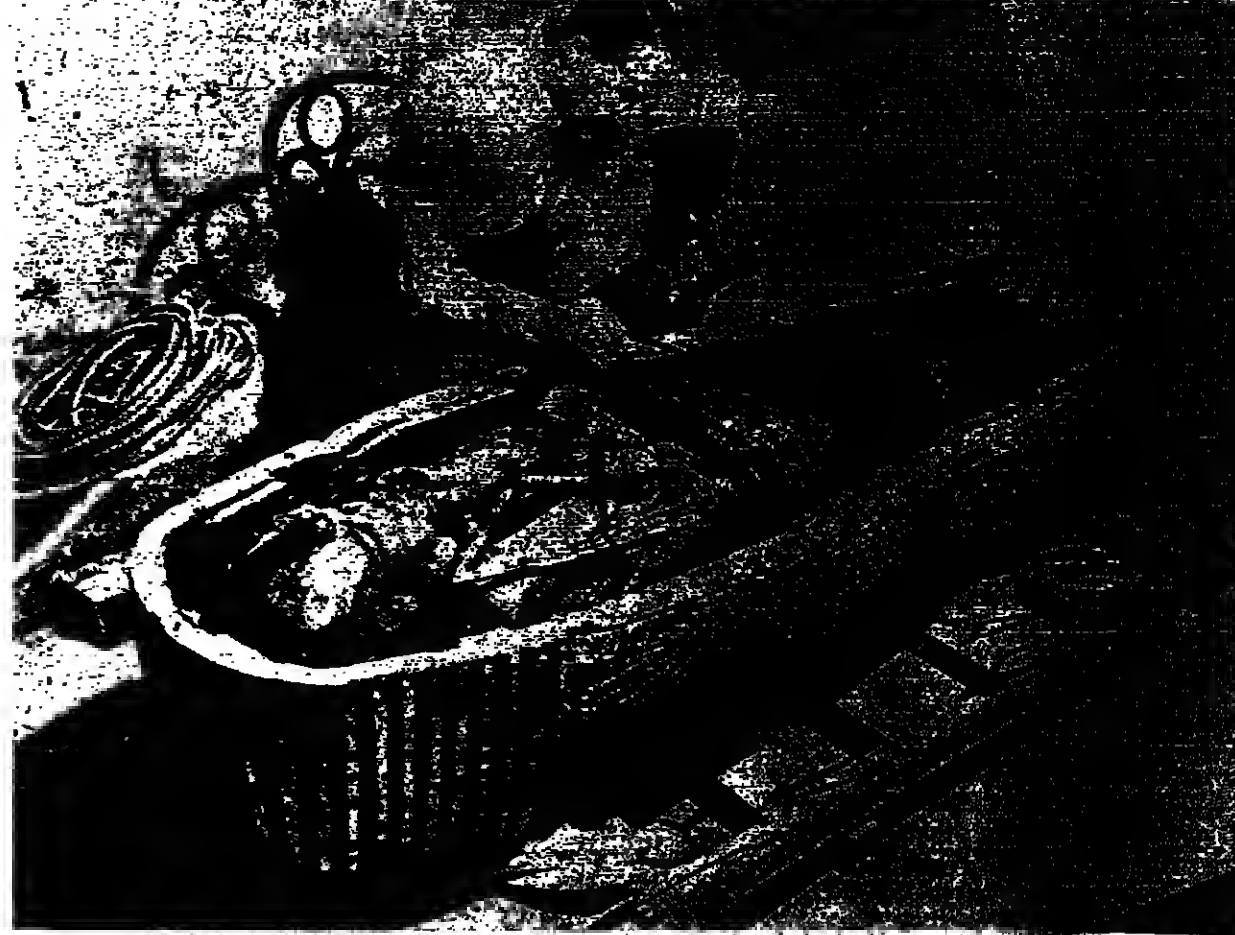
The basic precept of ancient Egyptian theology was, of course, that you can take it with you, and every Egyptian who departed for the underworld knew how to pack for the trip.

The objects in the tombs are revealing, not only of the manners and mores of the ancient Egyptians, but also of their emotions, wifery, makeup and even sleep and it is the depiction of vignettes from their personal lives that make the tombs most vividly alive.

In this exhibition, for instance, scenes of timeless tenderness between Tutankhamen and his wife, Ankhnesneferibre, appear with touching frequency on the golden shrine which is the sanctuary for the vulture goddess and on the extravagantly carved wooden chest.

The installation of the exhibition, for which the director of the Metropolitan Museum, Thomas P. Hoving, takes credit, follows the design of the tomb and captures its sepulchral atmosphere. Explained Mr. Hoving, "The only way to do it was to follow the order found in the tomb."

Thus, the exhibition is really two in one: An aesthetic display of the objects in the approximate order of their excavation and an educational re-creation of the dis-



British archaeologist Howard Carter (left) at work on inner coffin.

covery through the use of quotations from Mr. Carter's journal and huge photographs shown on the walls.

Mr. Carter's journal, taken by the Metropolitan Museum's Henry Burton of the time of the excavation, is the main source of the exhibition.

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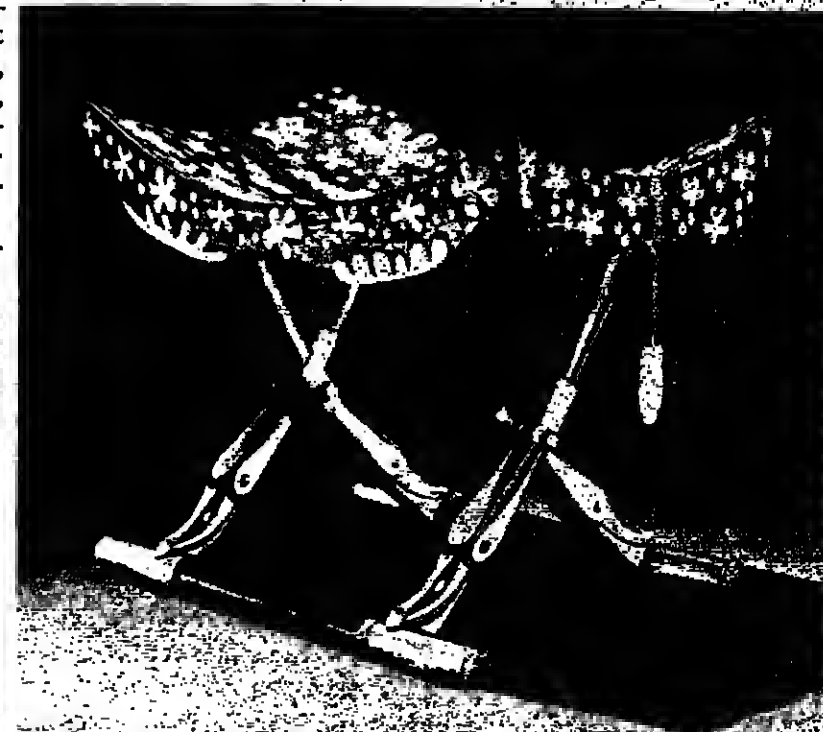
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The golden mask that covered Tutankhamen's head is made of polished gold and is inlaid with coloured glass, carnelian, lapis lazuli, quartz, feldspar and obsidian.



Ptah, an Egyptian god, from King Tut's tomb.



Folding stool dating from 1394 B.C.

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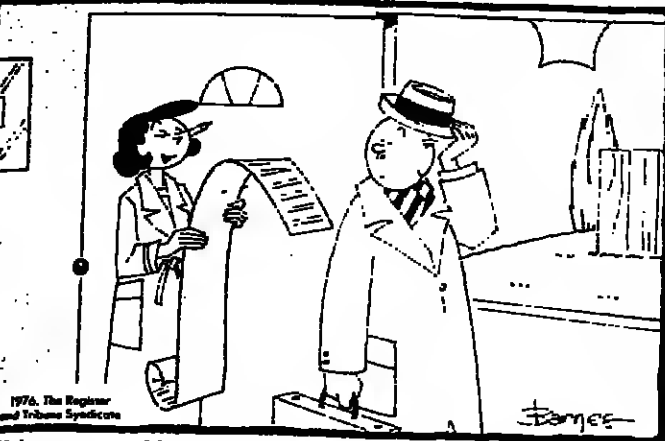
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THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"I know you like to shop early, so I stayed up late last night making up page one of my Christmas list."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1976, The Chicago Tribune

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ97 ♣J ♢A1095 ♠A987
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♥ Dble. ?
What action do you take?

A.—Redouble. Someone is trying to pull the wool over our eyes, and we expect it is either West or East—our partners are not given to funny business at this vulnerability. Even with trumps stacked against him, partner should be a shoo-in for eight tricks, and if the opponents attempt to run, we should be able to handle that.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠96 ♣82 ♢AKQ10 ♠QJ983
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Five clubs. You have bid every card you have, and the auction indicates that your king-queen of diamonds may be wasted values for partner almost certainly has a singleton diamond. Unless partner has the two top honors in both majors and the ace or king of clubs, slam will be at best on a finesse. And if partner does have that hand, he's the one to bid the slam, not you.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠762 ♣KQJ872 ♠KJ53
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♥ 1♣
Dble. Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—Give up the search for game—you have arrived at your best spot. Partner's low-level penalty double suggests shortness in hearts. Your three trumps and void in partner's suit indicate that you can defeat the contract on a crossruff alone, and anything you pick up via high cards will help swell the kitty.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ9 ♠AK82 ♣743 ♠953
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
1♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—An awkward hand. You don't want to bid no trump with a suit unguarded; a mere preference to two diamonds underestimates your values, while a jump preference misdescribes your distribution and strength. The only sensible solution seems to be a raise to two spades. While we try to avoid that action with only three trumps, there is no forward-going bid available.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ7 ♣KJ42 ♢AJ6 ♠AQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 1♣
?
What action do you take?

A.—Double. While partners who pass a one club opening bid are not usually blessed with much in the way of high cards, your hand is too good not to take some action. If partner has four cards in either hearts or spades, the hand should play better in a major suit than in no trump, for if you declare a no trump contract, you may have to lead from your own hand all the time.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A1094 ♣73 ♢A8742 ♠KQ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♣ 2♥ 3♠ Pass
4NT 5♣ ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Five no trump. When an opponent interferes with your responses to Blackwood, you still respond in steps starting with the opponent's suit as the first step. Thus, in the sequence given "pass" would deny an ace, five spades would show one ace and five no trump, two aces.

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ5 ♠AJ6 ♣KQ9 ♠10983
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1NT Pass 2NT Pass
?
What action do you take?

A.—Bid three spades. You are a bit better than minimum and have fair intermediates, so you should accept partner's invitation. We would not fault you greatly if you chose to bid three no trump, but the suggested bid is superior because it offers a choice of contracts. Should partner have five spades and a doubleton club, four spades could be the superior contract. Since you did not raise spades at your first opportunity, partner will realize that you have only three-card support.

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A87 ♠AK62 ♣8 ♠AQ762
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

A.—Your hand has become quite good indeed. With a fourth spade, we would suggest a jump raise. Since you have only three spades, you should paint a picture of your distribution and strength. If you start by "reversing" to two hearts and then raising spades at your next turn, you will have described a hand of 5-4-3-1 shape worth about 19 points.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO

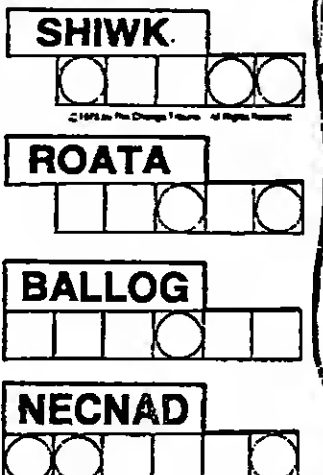


GETTING TO KNOW YOU—Young though these West German boys are, the artist and model are completely immersed in their creativity. For the one who is drawing the outline of his friend's body, and for the friend being sketched, it is all fun, and it is all part of a course of "getting to know you." This important part of elementary education has been subsidised by the government, and the new techniques are being tried out by almost 1,000 educationalists in 240 kindergartens and playschools.

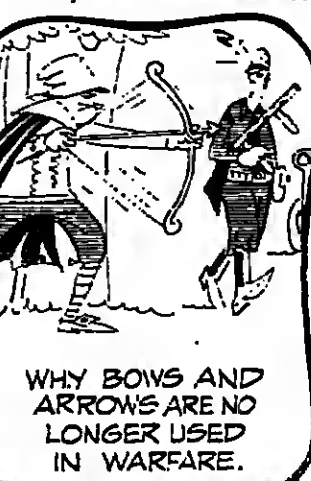


JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: THEY HAVE



WHY BOWS AND ARROWS ARE NO LONGER USED IN WARFARE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers Tuesday

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLOOM TRYST WALNUT RENEGE
Answer: Could be a fall in winter temperature—SNOW

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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

MANNIX

RUN TILL DARK

Mannix saves an ex-convict, witness to a crime, from the law of gangsters who are after him to silence him for good.

SPACE 1999

A.B. CHRYSALIS

A planet on which people enter a chrysalis stage when they reach their allotted span -- reborn, they attain new heights of mental and physical perfection -- but for Moonbase Alpha, the planet threatens disaster.

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
Clayton

"New car."

Your Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19

Your birthday today:

Should find you well along in personal development, latent ability rising steadily as you follow intuition. Much routine is left behind as you move on this year. Relationships encounter a wide range of mixed experience, generally pleasant, up to you for the most part. Today's natives are easygoing, with aptitudes in music, the art of government. Those born this year will promote unusual ideas, have individual values different from average because low-key psychic factors are familiar to their thinking.

Aries [March 21-April 19]: Casual travel encounters unusual conditions, okay if you have supplies, no demanding schedules to meet. Pick companions wisely if a choice must be made.

Taurus [April 20-May 20]: You have space and time for socializing, but shouldn't use it as an extension for commercial connections. Close observation tonight brings clarification.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: Mix with the right people, be yourself. Contacts made now are illusory. Your experience of doing as you'd like to be done by should guide you in your approach.

Cancer [June 21-July 21]: You need a break, have trouble detaching yourself from ongoing enterprises. Manage it anyway. You owe a special person some token of your true feelings.

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: If you're optimistically prepared, you can get a great many pertinent details off your list. Well-organized

social entertainment brings expansive benefits.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: There's no indication of what's coming. Be ready for the best as well as for release from petty obligation. Catch up with people you don't see during the week.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: There really isn't that much to decide. You can settle controversial issues in regular social functions of your community. Romantic impulses are encouraged.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Get joy out of the good features of your daily living. Some phases are thinning out, new promises are for the coming week. A reconciliation is feasible.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Do well what you personally attend to, as a sort of implied art expression of your inner quality. Shared interests are possible if you take the initiative.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Visit those who can't travel with you. Investigating the unknown is a fascinating hobby, especially if participated in by individuals of diverse talents.

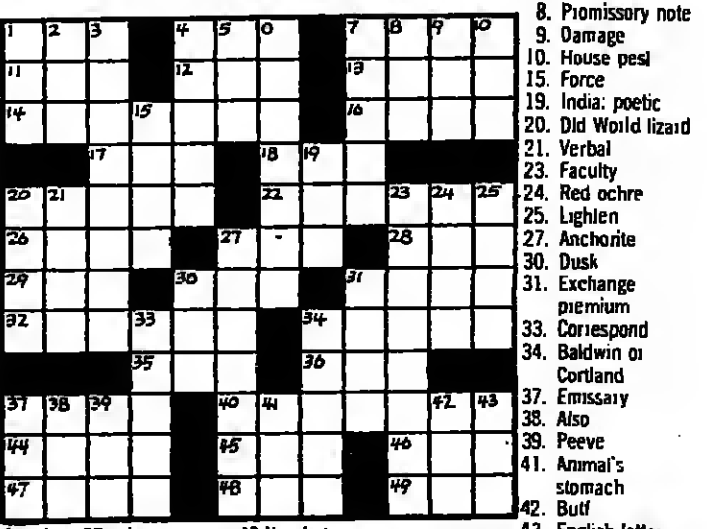
Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: Make a full round of Sunday reunions with friends, in-laws you care for. Diplomacy lets you meet new contacts, and perhaps build important relationships.

Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: Clear away the old, make room for the new which has not yet arrived. Maneuvering has no point. Give thanks for all that is in order, pray for guidance.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Visit between whalers
4. Black bird
7. Mountain peak
11. Italian
12. Eggs
13. Color of a horse
14. Citizen
16. Siberian lent
17. Fury
18. Apex
20. Sage
22. Contraction
26. Emerald Isle
27. Outcome
28. Vegetable
29. Mike's friend
30. Unit of energy
31. Sweetshop
32. Floss
34. Lithic
35. Treasure
36. Colliery
37. Rouse
40. Conticcate
44. Study hard
45. Hindu cymbals
46. Attributable
47. Joining bar
48. Language spoken in Ghana
49. French summer

DOWN
3. Impure opal
5. Twelve
6. Delicent
7. Vault
8. Promissory note
9. Damage
10. House pest
15. Force
19. India: poetic
20. Old World lizard
21. Verbal
23. Faculty
24. Red ochre
25. Lighten
27. Anchorite
30. Dusk
31. Exchange premium
33. Correspond
34. Baldwin or Cortland
37. Emissary
38. Also
39. Peeve
41. Animal's stomach
42. Bull
43. English letter



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THE JORDAN TIMES...



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



Oriol is alive

MADRID, Dec. 18 (R). — The extreme leftist kidnappers of top Spanish official Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo tonight sent a new note to a Madrid newspaper saying their prisoner was alive.

They had threatened to execute him by 22:00 GMT last night if the government did not agree to free all of Spain's 200-odd political prisoners. The government refused.

The kidnappers -- the First of October Groups of anti-Fascist Resistance (GRAPO) -- also sent a note they said was written by Senor Oriol to prove he was still alive.

The kidnapped man's family believes the note is authentic.

The note was picked up in a cafe by reporters of the afternoon newspaper Informaciones who had received a phone call.

It said that GRAPO had informed Senor Oriol, President of the

advisory Council of State, of their decision not to execute him because of "vague government promises" of widening the royal amnesty for political prisoners granted last July.

The GRAPO note said the group believed the only way to achieve a wider amnesty was in keeping their hostage alive.

The GRAPO note referred to the arrests throughout Spain today of 36 alleged members of the group's political wing, the Maoist Reconstituted Communist Party (PCE-R), and said it would take reprisals against any policeman who tortured or ordered tortured "anti-fascist prisoners."

Immediately after receipt of the message, Mr. Oriol's family expressed the hope that it would succeed in its negotiations with the kidnappers and asked its lawyers, at present in Paris, to remain there until further notice.

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE DOMINATES ITALIAN SCENE

ROME, Dec. 18 (R). — Six deaths in the past week have underlined the serious increase in political violence which has hit Italy this year.

A senior official at anti-terrorist headquarters here said neo-fascist and leftwing urban guerrilla groups have committed 1,271 politically motivated acts of "terrorism" this year, ranging from bombings, shootings and kidnappings to armed robberies. At least 10 people have died in such incidents.

"This is about twice as much as we had last year," the official said. "From an international point of view Italy ranks in second place behind Argentina as far as 'internal terrorism' is concerned."

The latest wave of violence, following months of relative peace, comes at a time when Italy faces a highly sensitive political situation coupled with its worst post-war economic crisis.

"We are not sociologists," the anti-terrorist official said. "But perhaps there is a link between the economic crisis, the high number of unemployed, particularly among young people, that drives quite a few of them into the arms of these revolutionary groups."

The official asked not to be named as he did not want to "end with a bullet" in his head -- a fear which does not seem exaggerated after the shooting of Dr. Alfonso Noce, head of the Rome anti-terrorist squad, last Tuesday.

Leftist guerrillas waiting outside Dr. Noce's home opened fire with submachine guns, wounding him three times and killing one of his police escorts. One of the attackers, an ex-criminal turned leftist guerrilla, also died in the ambush.

The incident appeared to spark off a rash of violence. Less than 24 hours later, two policemen were killed in a gun battle in Milan with a suspected leftist guerrilla who was also shot dead.

In Brescia, another north Italian industrial centre, a bomb exploded in the main square on Thursday night, killing a woman and seriously injuring a member of the carabinieri, Italy's crack paramilitary national police force.

The anti-terrorist official said the bombing looked like the work of the neo-fascists, adding that a neo-fascist group calling itself the New Phoenix had sprung up in the Brescia area in the last few months, claiming responsibility for the bombings of two Communist and one Socialist Party offices.

The anti-terrorist squad belie-

ves the three incidents are not related. Dr. Noce's shooting, the official said, was "a clear act of revenge by the Armed Proletarian Nuclei (NAP)."

Dr. Noce personally led a raid on a NAP flat in Rome last year during which a policeman shot dead a 20-year-old girl, the sister of another suspected guerrilla.

The policeman who killed the girl was apparently the NAP's first target for revenge. He was shot and permanently paralysed later last year.

The other leftwing urban guerrilla group involved in this week's incidents is the Red Brigades, whose declared targets are fascists, industrialists, land-owners and the police -- "the main protectors of capitalism and fascism."

The anti-terrorist squad says 62 Red Brigade members have been put in prison and 13 are still at large. The NAP has had 59 active members put behind bars and another group is now on trial in Naples.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti's minority Christian Democratic government is under strong pressure from the established left, led by the powerful Communist Party, to push ahead with social and economic reform programmes.

The Communists, who aim at sharing power with the Christian Democrats, have tried hard to dissociate themselves from the unruly left and are spearheading a campaign to overhaul Italy's complicated police force structure.

The Communists, who aim at sharing power with the Christian Democrats, have tried hard to dissociate themselves from the unruly left and are spearheading a campaign to overhaul Italy's complicated police force structure.

U.K. football roundup West Ham United sends Liverpool reeling

LONDON, Dec. 18 (AFP). — West Ham United hauled themselves from the bottom of the English first division and knocked Liverpool off the top by beating the leaders two-nil at Upton Park Saturday. Trevor Brooking and Billy Jennings scored the goals which sent the champions reeling to their third defeat in their last four league matches and their second within four days.

Ipswich Town regained the leadership despite dropping a home point against Derby County. There was £500,000 of striking power on view at Portman Road but Derby's Derek Hales was blotted out and Ipswich's Paul Mariner made no impression before limping

off with a thigh injury in the sixtieth minute.

Elsewhere, expensive forwards justified their big price tags. Arsenal's Malcolm Macdonald scored twice in the three-one home defeat of Manchester United, bringing his tally to six in four league matches. Duncan McKenzie, Everton's 200,000 pound capture from Belgium's Anderlecht, scored twice in his home debut, a two-all draw against Birmingham.

Trevor Francis gave Birmingham a tenth minute lead but after MacKenzie had equalised, Francis had a sixty ninth minute penalty saved by David Lawson. Four minutes later, MacKenzie scored from the spot but two minutes from the end Terry Hibbitt equalised.

Two goals by nineteen-year-old England youth international, John Deehan enabled Aston Villa to achieve their third win in eight days, two-one at home to Newcastle.

No one bettered the achievement of Carlisle United striker, Bill Rafferty, who scored a hat-trick in the last six minutes at home to Cardiff. His goals transformed a three-one deficit into a four-three victory.

Southampton's England striker, Mick Channon, was another hat-trick scorer with all his side's goals in the three-all draw at home to Blackpool. Eire international Mick Walsh scored twice for Blackpool.

Norwich City forward Graham Paddon broke a leg twelve minutes from the end of the one-nil victory at Sunderland, where Viv Busby shot the winner.

Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky smiles as he peeps at newsmen through a door at Zurich airport Saturday. His sister, Lina Ivanovna, is at his side. (AP wirephoto).

Soviet, Chilean exiles exchanged in spy-thriller drama at Zurich airport

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec. 18 (R). — Two of the world's best known political prisoners, Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky and Chilean Communist leader Luis Corvalan, walked to freedom at Zurich airport here today, a Zurich police spokesman said.

Freed after 11 years in jails, labour camps and psychiatric hospitals, Mr. Bukovsky arrived in Zurich today aboard a special Aeroflot flight from Moscow, airport officials said.

The twin-engine Aeroflot jet had touched down just before a scheduled Lufthansa flight brought Senor Corvalan to Zurich from a Santiago jail.

Senor Corvalan, 60, who has been a prisoner of the Chilean military government for three years, was accompanied by his wife. Reporters were kept well away from the planes.

The dramatic exchange unfolded in minutes on the tarmac of Zurich's snow-covered Kloten airport. The two exiles did not meet.

Senor Corvalan was driven to the special Soviet Aeroflot airliner which had brought Mr. Bukovsky, his mother Nina Bukovska, his sister Nina Ivanovna and his ailing nephew Mikhail to the West while the Bukovskys were taken by car to Zurich police headquarters.

The Soviet airliner later took off Moscow television interrupted its normal programmes to announce that Senor Corvalan was free and that he was being offered "total" hospitality by the USSR.

Diplomats in Moscow said he would attend tomorrow's festivities for the 70th birthday of Soviet

Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr. Bukovsky, speaking a mixture of English and Russian, told reporters during a brief meeting in Zurich airport police office: "I am glad to be released, glad to be in Switzerland. I am glad that Mr. Corvalan has been released. I hope for the release of all political prisoners."

The Swiss Ministry of Justice and Police in Berne said in a communique that Mr. Bukovsky and Senor Corvalan were exchanged through the mediation of Switzerland and the United States.

Strict secrecy about the swap was agreed in the interests of the people and the states concerned, the communique said.

Swiss government officials from Berne were present during the exchange, airport officials said.

The white and blue twin-engine Aeroflot Tupolev jet was the first to taxi into sight on the airfield at noon. The Lufthansa plane carrying the Corvalans followed about two minutes later. It rolled behind the Soviet machine and parked about 500 metres away.

A white van, resembling an ambulance, pulled up by the Tupolev, while black diplomatic cars carrying Soviet officials stopped alongside the Lufthansa plane.

A dark-green armoured troop carrier with a mounted machine-gun and fur-hatted Swiss police abroad patrolled between the two aircraft.

About two minutes later the white van pulled away from the Aeroflot gangway, moved to the plane's nose and halted on the opposite side of the plane.

One group of people moved from the cars to the plane and another group walked over to the white van and stood beside it. After about five minutes both the cars and the white van moved off -- and the exchange had apparently been completed.

British actor David Markham, head of a committee campaigning for Mr. Bukovsky's release, told journalists that he had been allowed out with a Soviet passport, technically giving him the right to return to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Markham said Mr. Bukovsky would stay for the time being in Switzerland. Although he had received permission to live in Britain and elsewhere, Mr. Bukovsky wanted to be near his nephew Mikhail, who was rushed to hospital from the plane to receive treatment for suspected cancer of the lymph glands.

Economic Viewpoint By Dr. Hardham Duran

Coffee drinkers: Can you change your tastes and preferences?

For the past few years there has been steady intervention by the government in the food sector in Jordan, mainly to restrict the upward movement of prices. It started with regulating the wheat-bread subsector and expanded to include many other items such as sugar, milk, poultry, coffee, etc.

Alongside this interventionist trend, undulating conflict has arisen between the private sector and the Ministry of Supply concerning what constitutes the actual cost of production and what can be considered a fair price for both seller and consumer. In the final analysis, profit margins have been getting squeezed and as a result poor quality and services are offered by the regulated market.

To be realistic, we should expect many shortcomings to arise out of this new role the government is assuming, because of inexperienced staff and the shortage of facilities. However, I think such shortcomings must not be allowed to continue; once they are identified they should be corrected. I think the general observation that the Ministry of Supply does not subject its economic policies to a comprehensive examination prior to their adoption is fundamentally sound. An efficient research department is required to fill this gap.

The latest conflict was fired just a few days ago when coffee retailers found themselves unable to function in the face of a large boost in the price of green coffee. The government has set the ceiling retail price at J.D. 1.840 per kilo of roasted and ground coffee. Apparently this figure was determined on the basis of wholesale prices a year or more ago. But since then the wholesale price has witnessed a constant increase; for example, green coffee was sold to retailers at a price ranging between 500 and 700 fils/kilo, while now it is sold at J.D. 1,900, about 300 per cent higher in only one year. A simple calculation of the cost of roasting and grinding the coffee shows that the kilo must be

sold by J.D. 2,500 in order for the retailer to stay in the market and make a fair profit. Hence, if retailers accept to sell at J.D. 1,840 they will incur a loss of about 660 fils for each kilo they sell. The natural consequence is to stop dealing with coffee and switch to another profession where government intervention exists.

I think there was a lack of realism on the part of the government in assuming this kind of situation. What was needed last year is not necessarily what is needed this year since the government has not imposed a price at the wholesale level. Wholesalers have felt free to raise prices which maximises their profit. So the government is in a bind. It has to investigate the market prices of coffee stored in Jordan. Also, it has to either subsidise the coffee or raise the extra 660 fils per kilo of coffee to the ceiling price at J.D. 1,840. In the case of the bread and wheat, the government has to allow the coffee price to be determined by market conditions of supply and demand.

On the other hand, the government should take a more positive stand. It should behave rationally in the market. When the price of coffee is high, it should encourage consumers to shift to a substitute such as tea or any other drink. This will help to improve the market for coffee. I realise that the demand for coffee is low, i.e., the degree of neediness by consumers to a change in the quantity of coffee due to an increase in price is small. If the consumer's demand for coffee is enhanced, it may help him to respond to market conditions and act accordingly.

Tensions within SPD threaten Schmidt's narrow majority

BONN, Dec. 18 (AFP). — Tension between the right and left wings of the West German Social Democrat Party (SPD), which had cooled during the recent election campaign, is building up again and risks exploding following the formation of the new government.

The refusal of Herr Walter Arnt (SPD) to remain at the head of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the new government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, a refusal revealed after Herr Schmidt was re-elected chancellor by a narrow, one-vote majority, risks providing a new element of tension and unpleasant consequences not only for the chancellor and his policy but also for the party.

Herr Arndt, former President of the Mineworkers Union, enjoys strong support from the powerful Trade Unions Confederation (DGB) and it is felt that he turned down the ministerial post because he considered that concessions made to the liberal partner in the government coalition (the Free Democratic Party (FDP) go too far to

be acceptable to the unions.

Mr. Arndt also has difficulty swallowing the breaking of the promise given by the Social Democrats and liberals during the election campaign of an increase in pensions.

The leftwing of the SPD and the Young Socialists (Jusos) -- who were already difficult to handle when Willy Brandt was chancellor -- are on a war footing.

Herr Jochen Steffen, called "Jochen the Red", resigned a few days ago from the presidency of the party's Orientation Commission to mark his disapproval of Helmut Schmidt's social policy.

Two weeks ago about 30 extreme rightwing members of the SPD formed a new party, the Liberal Social Democrat Party, as they considered that the SPD was becoming more and more Marxist.

Finally, in Munich, where the SPD federation is suffering, as Herr Willy Brandt recently said, from "Bavarian fever", the right and left wings have been tearing each other apart for months, which has led to severe electoral setbacks for the party. The chairman of the Bavarian branch of the SPD, Hans-Jochen Vogel, who is also federal justice minister, a member of the rightwing, has declined to run for the presidency.

So it is that the narrow majority which Chancellor Schmidt enjoys is threatened. For caught between the SPD and the liberals had done by his coalition with the FDP in Munich can only find himself treading on toes.

And the discontent he is likely to arouse will be all the sharper as the international economic situation becomes more difficult.

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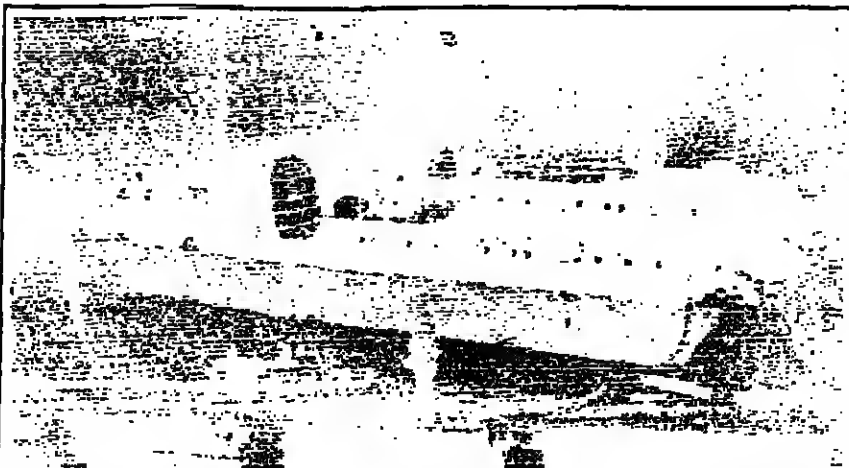
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BLAST CRACKS TANKER -- The aft section of the Liberian-registered tanker, Sansinena, lies at its dock in Los Angeles harbor Friday night after a huge blast set it afire and opened a 100-meter hole in the midsection. The blast was attributed to the explosion of oxygen bottles on a nearby dock. Two persons were killed and at least 18 others injured in the incident. The Sansinena was unloading oil when the explosion took place. A doctor, who saw the blast shoot flames 330 meters into the air said: "It looked like someone dropped a hydrogen bomb in the middle of the city."